

## Claims

1. A quality rating tool comprising:  
a listing of one or more entities, an entity being a type of health care provider; and  
a measure indicating the frequency with which a level of dosing of a medication was prescribed by an entity, wherein the quality rating tool is used to select an entity for providing health care services to a health care consumer.
2. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the medication includes painkillers.
3. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 2 wherein the measure is derived from a number of prescriptions in which a predetermined amount by weight of painkillers is not exceeded.
4. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 3 wherein the predetermined dosage is four grams and the painkiller is acetaminophen (APAP).
5. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the level of dosing indicated is a safe level of dosing.
6. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein an entity is a medical group.
7. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein an entity is a hospital.
8. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the measure is categorized in a clinical measures category.

9. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 8 wherein the measure is further categorized in a patient safety category.

10. A quality rating tool comprising:  
a listing of one or more entities, an entity being a type of health care provider; and  
a measure indicating the frequency with which use of an antibiotic for treating a condition is prescribed by an entity, wherein the quality rating tool is used to select an entity for providing health care services to a health care consumer.

11. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 10 wherein the measure is an indication of a number of prescribed antibiotics where the prescribed antibiotics are medically accepted for initiating treatment of a condition.

12. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 10 wherein the condition includes bronchitis.

13. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 10 wherein the measure is derived from a number of preferred antibiotic prescriptions and a number of total antibiotic prescriptions for treating the condition.

14. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 10 wherein an entity is a medical group.

15. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 10 wherein an entity is a hospital.

16. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 10 wherein the measure is represented in the quality rating tool as a percentile ranking.

17. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 10 wherein the measure is categorized in a clinical measures category.

18. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 17 wherein the measure is further categorized in a patient safety category.

19. A quality rating tool comprising:  
a listing of one or more entities, an entity being a type of health care provider; and  
a measure indicating the frequency with which appropriate diagnostic testing was performed when prescribing antibiotics for a condition, wherein the quality rating tool is used to select an entity for providing health care services to a health care consumer.

20. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 19 wherein the measure is an indication of a number of prescriptions that correspond with appropriate diagnostic testing.

21. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 19 wherein the measure is derived from a number of prescribed antibiotics that correspond with appropriate diagnostic testing and a number of patients with the condition.

22. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 21 wherein the condition includes pharyngitis.

23. A quality rating tool comprising:  
a listing of one or more entities, an entity being a type of health care provider; and  
a measure indicating the cost of health services and products incurred by a health care consumer obtaining health care services from an entity, wherein the quality rating tool is used to select an entity for providing health care services.

24. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 23 wherein a measure indicating the cost of health services and products incurred by a health care consumer includes a measure indicating pharmaceutical costs incurred by a health care consumer.

25. A quality rating tool as recited in claim 23 wherein a measure indicating the cost of health services and products incurred by a health care consumer includes a measure indicating emergency medical costs incurred by a health care consumer.

26. A quality rating tool measuring the performance of a medical group from a plurality of medical groups, the quality rating tool comprising:  
a safe dosing of a medication measure;  
a use of preferred antibiotics measure; and  
a overuse of antibiotics measure, wherein the quality rating tool is used by a health care consumer in selecting an appropriate medical group.

27. A quality rating tool measuring the performance of a medical group from a plurality of medical groups, the quality rating tool comprising:  
a member pharmaceutical cost measure; and  
a member emergency services cost measure wherein the quality rating tool is used by a health care consumer in selecting an appropriate medical group.

28. A method of creating a quality rating tool in the health care industry, the method comprising:  
selecting a unit of analysis which defines the granularity of the quality rating tool;  
collecting data from a plurality of sources relating to a plurality of measures used in the quality rating tool;  
calculating a score for a measure from the plurality of measures using data from the plurality of sources, wherein the measures include a safe dosing of a medication measure

29. A method of creating a quality rating tool in the health care industry, the method comprising:  
selecting a unit of analysis which defines the granularity of the quality rating tool;

collecting data from a plurality of sources relating to a plurality of measures used in the quality rating tool;

calculating a score for a measure from the plurality of measures using data from the plurality of sources, wherein the measures include use of preferred antibiotics measure.

30. A method of creating a quality rating tool in the health care industry, the method comprising:

selecting a unit of analysis which defines the granularity of the quality rating tool;

collecting data from a plurality of sources relating to a plurality of measures used in the quality rating tool;

calculating a score for a measure from the plurality of measures using data from the plurality of sources, wherein the measures include an overuse of antibiotics measure.